

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE OF MINISTRY

2 Cor. 1: 23,24

God allows heresies within the body in order for the good and godly to surface...to be made manifest.

1 Cor 11:19

Heresies: disunity, party-spirit, divisive opinions, dissenting opinions or doctrines.

Heretic: one that spreads dissensions or divisive opinions...recruits people to his cause contrary to the leadership; unteachable spirit)

Manifestation of flesh. Gal 5:19-20 ; 2 Pet 2:1

How to deal with heretic : Titus 3:10

Step One: Admonish

Step Two: Admonish

Step Three: Reject Mt.18:15-17

Church of Corinth

Majority --stood with Paul

Minority --stood with "unnamed"

Minority accusing of hidden motives

2 Corinthians 1:23

I. Accountability of Motives. ...*record upon my soul*

Oaths throughout Bible: 160 verses

Moses Deu 30:19

Elders of Gilead Judg 11:10

Samuel 1 Sam 12:3-4

Rom 1:9; Phil 1:8 ; Luke 1:73; Heb 6:13-14; Acts 2:30; Heb 6:13-14

Jesus : *Verily, verily, I say unto you.*

Call: to appeal to ... call as chief witness on my behalf

Record: Witness,

Upon my soul: to inspect my soul (mind, will , emotions)

to spare you ... To restrain my self from doing you harm..hurting you

II. Proper timing...*to spare you*

1 Cor 4:21; 5:1 Prov 16:20

Balance between Eccl 8:11 & Prov 15:28 ; 29:11

Always right to speak the truth...not always right time

Always right to confront error and sin...not always right time.

Always right to confront dissension...not always right time.

Barnett: *Perhaps he is reflecting some of the insight of modern industrial relations*

procedures where, the negotiations having reached an impasse, it is better for the parties to separate for a cooling-off period to get things in perspective..The same principle applies in strained marriage relationships where time for thinking rather than more talking is what is needed. Another visit, he now believed, could only make matters worse.

Eccl 8:5 ...a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

Timing and procedure.

Timing and approach

III. Proper view of leadership **24. *Not that we have dominion over your faith***

We are not in control of your faith. We don't dictate how you live out/flesh out your faith.

Dominion: lord over..control, sovereignty, command

Tasker: *"He does not mean that he is a tyrant dictating to them in matters of conscience, and determined that they should be in all things subservient to his will*

Role of spiritual leadership: 2 Cor 4:5; 1 Pet 5:2

Who has dominion over Faith? Rom 14:9 ...*that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.* Rom 14:10 Heb 13:17 Acts 20:28

IV. Proper view of ministry ... ***helpers of your joy...***

Helpers: Co-laborers; companions in labor..working with you...assistants;

Of your joy: to promote joy in your lives...

Joy: *"Jubilance of spirit which belongs to those who belong to God"* McGlokin

1. Inextinguishable--Can't put it out...given by Holy Spirit Gal 5:22

Psa 16:11; Eccl 2:26; John 15:11; Acts 13:52; 2 Cor 6:10; 8:2

2. Irrepressible--Can't hold it down. Not restrainable.

3. Inexhaustible--Can't use it up; doesn't wear out. Always there.

1 Pet 1:8

Stand: abide, continue, remain

Faith: reliance, believe, trust...

So What? Perspective of ministry:

I. Motives *a record upon my soul.*

II. Timing ...*to spare you I came not ...*

III. View of Leadership *Not for that we have dominion ...*

IV. View of Ministry ... *helpers of your joy*